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of our Land:

a national
inventory

PROGRAM AID No. 984
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE



One-third of our land is public land;
it is administered by the federal government
in the public interest. The other two-thirds
is owned in individual parcels by private
citizens, by business and industry, and
by states, counties, cities, and other
units of local government.

*As our population increases, our
per capita land resource dwindles.*

CAL-7,407



a national inventory of our land

As one of 205 million Americans occupying and depending on 2.3 billion acres of land, your pro rata share is 11 acres. Your father in 1940 had $17\frac{1}{3}$ acres as the land base supporting him in the national economy; your son in 2000 will have $6\frac{2}{3}$ acres.

Not all of your 11 acres are available to you to do with as you please. Some of the land is already taken up by cities, towns, airports, and highways. About 2 acres are producing food and fiber. And some of the land is barren mountain tops, some is desert, and some is frozen tundra.

As our population increases and our per capita land resource dwindles, we need to use the resources we have more efficiently—to meet our food and fiber needs and to preserve a livable and pleasant environment.

Accurate information about land and water resources—their availability and their condition—can make the difference between success and failure in our efforts to provide a livable and enjoyable environment. A national inventory of our land is a necessary basis for a workable land use policy.

The National Inventory of Soil and Water Conservation Needs is an important part of such a land inventory. It gives us information about privately owned rural land—land that covers two-thirds of the country. It tells us how much of this land is suitable or unsuitable for cultivation; it gives the acreage of land used for crops, pasture, range, forest, and other uses and the acreage of land needing conservation treatment to keep it permanently productive.

The 1970 report of the Public Land Law Review Commission gives significant information on the public

land, which makes up one-third of the country.

Together, these two sources comprise a comprehensive inventory of the nation's land resources.

The National Water Assessment by the Water Resources Council, required by the Water Resources Planning Act of 1965, gives a similar overview of the nation's water resources.

This booklet discusses the National Inventory of Soil and Water Conservation Needs. It tells us about the two-thirds of our land that is locally controlled.

ME-10,240
Private land furnishes most of our food,
fiber, lumber, and other essential products.



CNI acreage	Acres	Percent
Locally controlled land:		
Included in Inventory ¹ —		
Privately owned land	1,326,642,000	59
Nonfederal public land	61,307,000	3
Indian land	50,400,000	2
	1,438,349,000	
Excluded from Inventory—		
Small water areas	7,099,000	—
Urban and built-up areas	60,993,000	3
	68,092,000	
Federal land	759,499,000	33
Total land area, 50 states	2,265,940,000	100

¹ Acreages taken from *Major uses of land and water in the United States with special reference to agriculture: Summary for 1964*. U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Econ. Rpt. 149. 1968.

locally controlled land

Two-thirds of our land is owned in individual parcels by private citizens, by business and industry, and by states, counties, cities, and other units of local government.

One-third of our land is public land and is administered by the federal government in the public interest.

But the welfare of the public and the nation depends more on how the nonpublic land is used and managed, for it is this land that furnishes most of our food, fiber, lumber, and other products that are either essential or add to our pleasure and comfort. Private land—locally controlled land—is the space on which we build our houses, erect towns and cities, run railroads, and construct highways and airports.

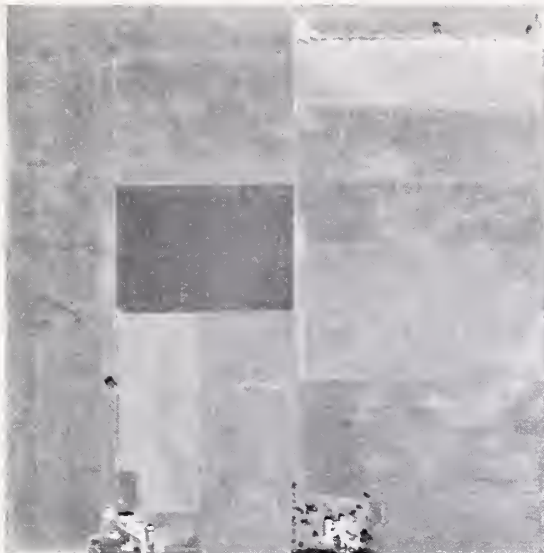
For all its importance, the use and care of this land is dependent on the millions of decisions made from day to day by the private users.

the conservation needs inventory

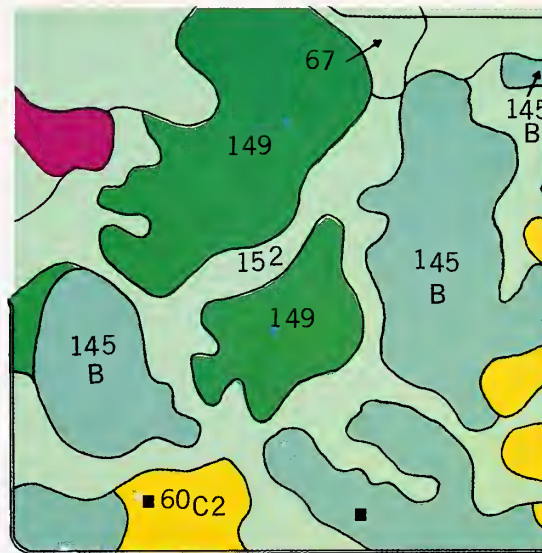
To learn the character of the nation's locally controlled land, the U.S. Department of Agriculture made an inventory of this land in 1958 and updated and expanded it in 1967.

Field men examined areas selected to give an unbiased statistical sampling of all nonfederal rural land. They mapped these areas in detail, recorded the land use, and determined the needs for soil conservation on each tract.

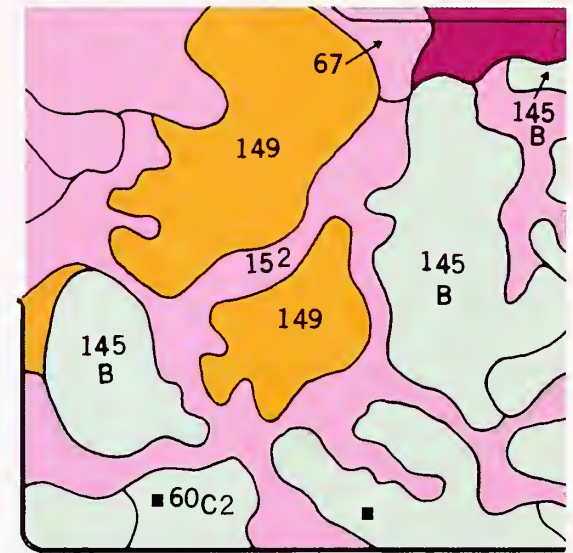
Sample plot data were compiled by a statistical laboratory; these were expanded to represent the total area



This section of the soil map of Grafton Township, McHenry County, Ill., shows one of the many areas throughout the country selected for examination in compiling Conservation Needs Inventory data.



Soil interpretations guide for conservation and farming (left) and soil interpretations guide for houses or other low buildings with public sewer (right). Soil limitations



are shown by color. Green means that the limitations are evaluated as slight; yellow, moderate; and red, severe.

of each county. Committees of resource experts then analyzed and evaluated the data by county, by state, and finally for the entire nation.

who needs it?

The vast amount of information in the Conservation Needs Inventory (CNI) can benefit everyone. It can serve as a basis for protecting our resources and for producing food and fiber to meet our needs and demands.

More specifically, CNI data can be used by —

1. Citizens and officials

In any community where there is an effort to guide land use toward goals of improved environment and economic development, concerned citizens and officials need facts about their land resources.

Inventory data can be useful in

county or multicounty land use planning and in preparing plans for watershed projects and resource conservation and development projects.

Inventory information on conservation measures needed in an area can stimulate support for corrective programs.

2. Industrial and commercial concerns

Manufacturers, distributors, and merchants can identify areas of potential demand for equipment, materials, and services needed for land development and conservation.

Inventory data on conservation treatment needs for cropland indicate possible markets for machinery and equipment for terracing, drainage, irrigation, and similar operations.

Data for pasture and rangeland can show where seeds and fertilizers will be in demand.

There is information that can suggest where contractors might sell services for earthmoving and grass and tree planting. Such information helps plan advertising and sales campaigns.

3. Teachers and students

CNI data can serve as the basis for the conservation education of future citizens and are useful in research on resource and environmental problems. CNI data and related land and water information should be available as standard reference material in schools of all levels.

See back page for suggestions on how to get CNI information for the area or region of your interest.

soil surveys

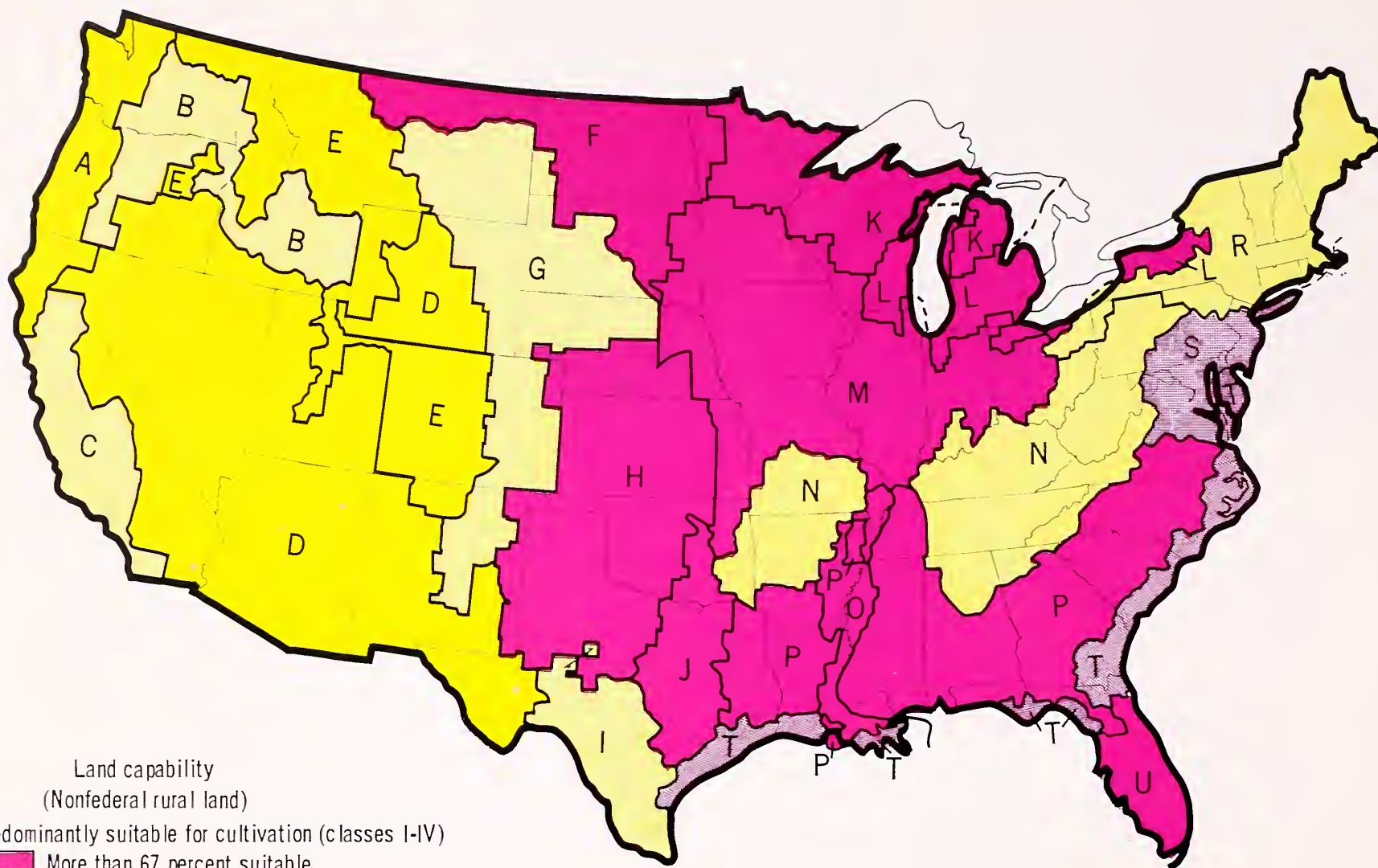
Soil surveys were used extensively in compiling CNI data. For local plan-

ning, soil surveys can augment the CNI statistics with specific information. They provide detailed information about the kinds of soil in a surveyed area. Maps, soil descriptions, and interpretations—all part of a soil survey—enable land users and public officials to base the use of any tract or area on substantial facts.

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and cooperating agencies have completed field mapping of about 40 percent of the nation's land area, and mapping is proceeding at the rate of about 45 million acres a year.

Soil surveys show the location of each kind of soil on maps at a scale that is practical for land use and conservation planning on individual tracts of land.

The soil information is interpreted in terms of capability and limitations for many farm and nonfarm uses.



Land capability
(Nonfederal rural land)

Predominantly suitable for cultivation (classes I-IV)

More than 67 percent suitable

50-66 percent suitable

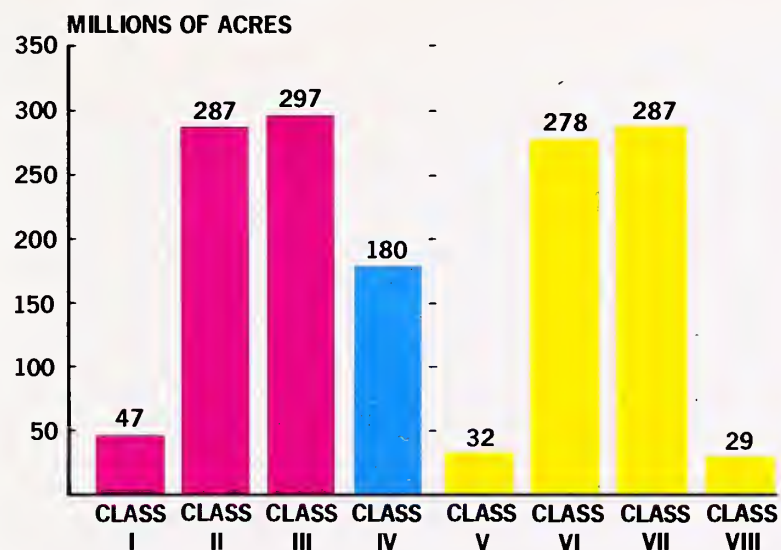
Predominantly unsuitable for cultivation (classes V-VIII)

More than 67 percent unsuitable

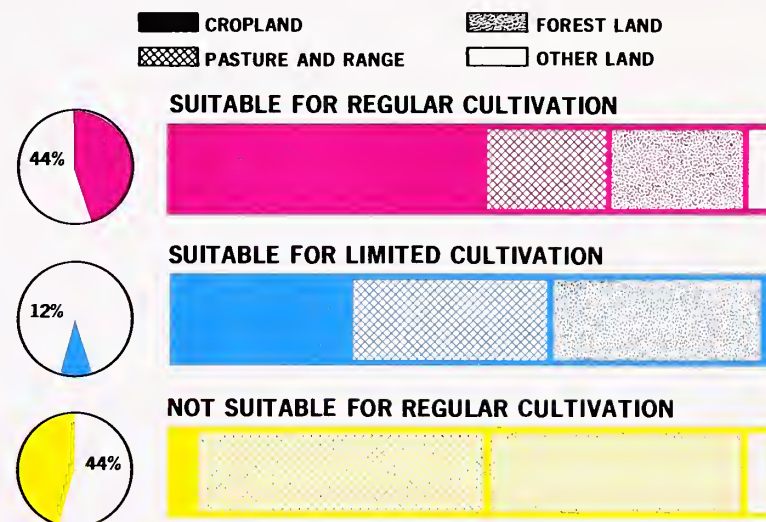
50-66 percent unsuitable

**...profile of our
land**

LAND CAPABILITY



LAND USE ACCORDING TO CAPABILITY



land capability

The land capability classification used in compiling data for the Conservation Needs Inventory is an interpretive grouping of individual kinds of soil.

In this classification, soils are grouped in eight land capability classes according to their potentialities and limitations for the sustained production of the common cultivated crops. Such a grouping places together soils that have similar soil properties, such as depth to rock, wetness, flooding susceptibility, steepness of slope, permeability, and stoniness.

Soils in classes I, II, and III are suitable for regular cultivation of most field crops and for a wide range of other uses. Soils in class IV are marginal for growing field crops. Soils in classes V, VI, VII, and VIII generally are not suitable for growing ordinary field crops but can be used for other

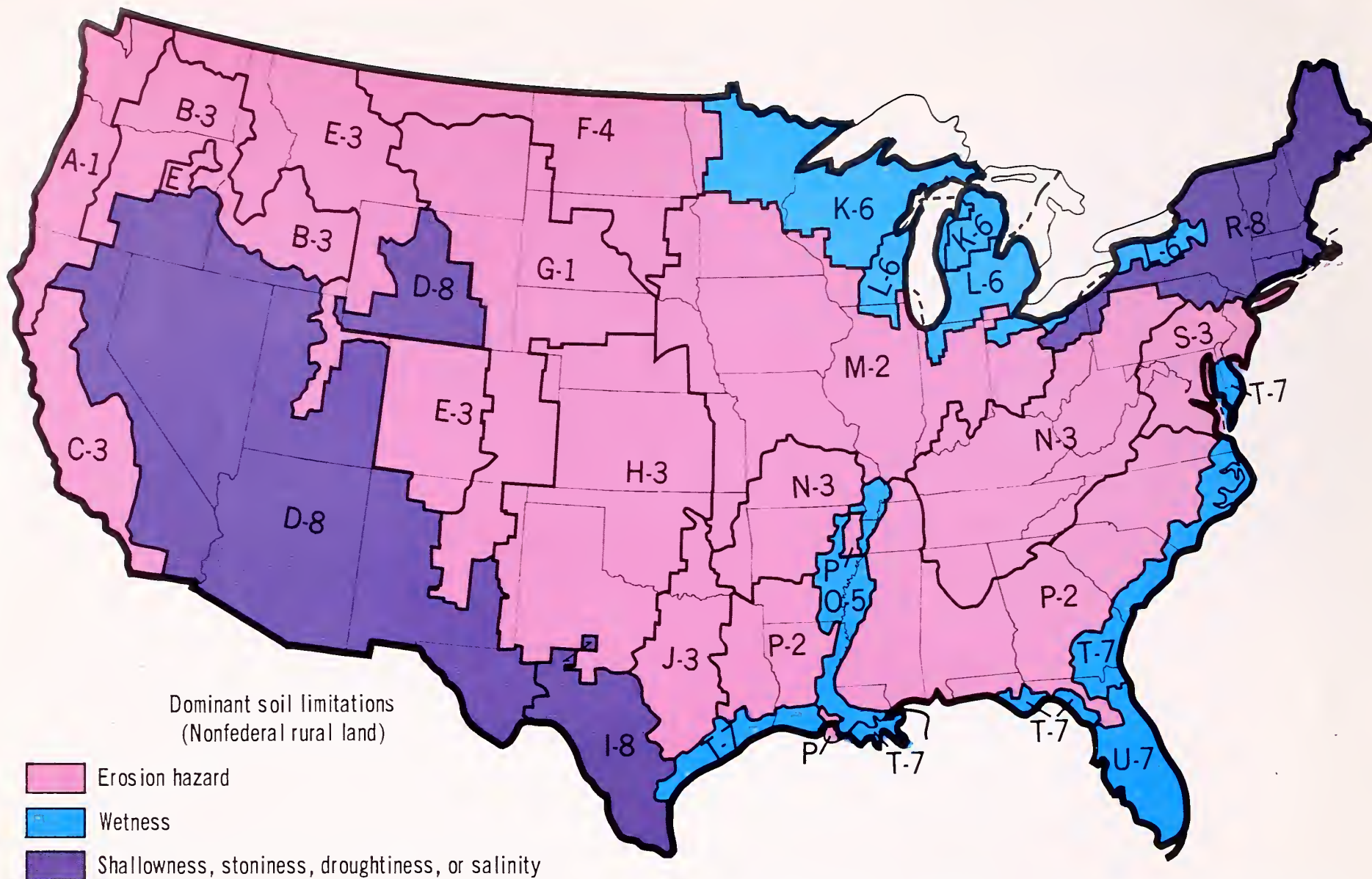
purposes, including growing some horticultural crops.

Data from the CNI sample areas show that about 44 percent of the locally controlled land is suitable for regular cultivation of field crops (classes I, II, and III); an equal part is unsuitable (classes V through VIII). The rest is in an intermediate category and requires special conservation care if cultivated (class IV).

The same kinds of soil properties that affect the growing of field crops also affect such uses as supporting foundations of buildings and roads, septic-tank absorption fields, underground conduits and transmission lines, and recreation uses of all kinds. Soils shallow to rock, for example, are

difficult and costly to work with; those wet or subject to flooding are poorly suited for houses and other buildings, for onsite disposal of wastes, for basements and underground utilities; organic soils and certain clayey soils provide little support for foundations of buildings, roads, and other structures; and steep soils present construction and management problems.

By evaluating the land capability data contained in the Conservation Needs Inventory, a soil scientist acquainted with the soils in an area can make estimates of the limitations of a soil for various uses. This information can be applied to broad areas such as land resource regions or to the entire nation.



The numbers that follow the region designation (A, B, C, etc.) can be interpreted as follows: 1. Erosion hazard, dominant soil limitation on more than 67 percent of region; shallowness, stoniness, droughtiness, or salinity, soil limitation on less than 33 percent. 2. Erosion hazard, more than 50 percent; wetness, less than 33 percent. 3. Erosion hazard, more than 50 percent; shallowness, stoniness, droughtiness, or salinity, less than 33 percent.

4. Erosion hazard, more than 50 percent; adverse climate, less than 33 percent. 5. Wetness, more than 67 percent; erosion hazard, less than 33 percent. 6. Wetness, more than 50 percent; erosion hazard, less than 33 percent. 7. Wetness, more than 50 percent; shallowness, stoniness, droughtiness, or salinity, less than 33 percent. 8. Shallowness, stoniness, droughtiness, or salinity, more than 50 percent; erosion hazard, less than 33 percent.

IND-60,615
A fragipan impedes the downward movement of water in this soil. Construction is difficult during wet seasons.



NEB-2,100
Erosion is the dominant limitation on about half of our land.



TEX-49,581
On about a fourth of our land, the dominant limitation is a shallow, stony, or droughty soil.

dominant soil limitations

Only on 3 percent of our land do the soils have no serious limitations on use for farming. Erosion is the dominant problem on about half of our land. This limitation affects to some degree the use of the land and makes conservation measures necessary.

Excess water is the dominant soil limitation on nearly a fifth of our

land; shallowness, stoniness, droughtiness, or salinity on about a quarter; and climate that severely limits field-crop production on about a twentieth.

These dominant limitations dictate land use and management, including conservation measures. The Conservation Needs Inventory has compiled data on the extent of these soil limitations and their distribution.

DOMINANT SOIL LIMITATIONS





the regional pattern

The map on this page shows land resource regions (indicated by letter). These regions are defined mainly by similarity of soil patterns and climate but also by other natural features that affect use and management of land.

Descriptions of the 20 land resource regions and CNI data for the

nonfederal rural land in each region are summarized on these pages. Detailed descriptions of these regions are contained in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Handbook 296, Land Resource Regions and Major Land Resource Areas of the United States, issued in December 1965.

A. Northwest coast region

Steep mountains; gently sloping valleys; plains. Inventory area, 58 percent of region. Suitable for regular cultivation (classes I-III), 17 percent. Dominant soil limitation: erosion hazard, 72 percent; shallowness, stoniness, droughtiness, 17 percent. Land use: commercial forest, 74 percent; cropland, 11 percent. Conservation treatment needed: 60 percent of commercial forest; 66 percent of cropland.

B. Columbian region

Mostly smooth to deeply dissected plains and plateaus; few mountain ranges. Inventory area, 61 percent of region. Suitable for regular cultivation, 33 percent. Dominant soil limitation: erosion hazard, 57 percent; shallowness, stoniness, droughtiness, salinity, 31 percent. Land use: cropland, 37 percent; range, 40 percent; commercial forest, 15 percent. Conservation treatment needed: 76 percent of cropland; 72 percent of range; 66 percent of commercial forest.

C. California coast region

Low mountains; broad valleys. Inventory area, 71 percent of region. Suitable for regular cultivation, 35 percent. Dominant soil limitation: erosion hazard, 47 percent; shallowness, stoniness, droughtiness, salinity, 35 percent. Land use: cropland, 30 percent; range, 26 percent; noncommercial forest, 29 percent. Conservation treatment needed: 71 percent of cropland; 54 percent of range.

D. Mountain and basin region

Plateaus, plains, basins; many isolated mountain ranges. Semidesert to desert. Inventory area, 41 percent of region. Suitable for regular cultivation, 7 percent. Dominant soil limitation: shallowness, stoniness, droughtiness, salinity, 54 percent; erosion hazard, 31 percent. Land use: range, 67 percent; noncommercial forest, 13 percent; cropland, 6 percent. Conservation treatment needed: 75 percent of range; 70 percent of cropland.

E. Rocky Mountain region

Rugged mountains; some broad valleys and high plateaus. Inventory area, 39 percent of region. Suitable for regular cultivation, 15 percent. Dominant soil limitation: erosion hazard, 56 percent; shallowness, stoniness, droughtiness, salinity, 33 percent. Land use: range, 43 percent; commercial forest, 25 percent; cropland, 16 percent. Conservation treatment needed: 62 percent of range; 70 percent of commercial forest; 67 percent of cropland.

F. Northern plains region

Mostly smooth topography. Inventory area, 91 percent of region. Suitable for regular cultivation, 72 percent. Dominant soil limitation: erosion hazard, 60 percent; adverse climate, 17 percent. Land use: cropland, 59 percent; range, 33 percent. Conservation treatment needed: 55 percent of cropland; 54 percent of range.

G. Western plains region

Mostly plains; sand hills and valleys; steep slopes. Inventory area, 88 percent of region. Suitable for regular cultivation, 20 percent. Dominant soil limitation: erosion hazard, 68 percent; shallowness, stoniness, droughtiness, salinity, 22 percent. Land use: range, 74 percent; cropland, 18 percent. Conservation treatment needed: 60 percent of range; 62 percent of cropland.

H. Central plains region

Plains; tableland; prairies. Inventory area, 100 percent of region. Suitable for regular cultivation, 53 percent. Dominant soil limitation: erosion hazard, 65 percent; shallowness, stoniness, droughtiness, salinity, 13 percent. Land use: cropland, 47 percent; range, 48 percent. Conservation treatment needed: 58 percent of cropland; 61 percent of range.

I. South Texas region

Plateaus and plains. Inventory area, 97 percent of region. Suitable for regular cultivation, 29 percent. Dominant soil limitation: shallowness, stoniness, droughtiness, salinity, 46 percent; erosion hazard, 37 percent. Land use: range, 76 percent; cropland, 10 percent. Conservation treatment needed: 76 percent of range, 64 percent of cropland.

J. Southern prairie region

Prairies and timbered areas; mostly gentle topography. Inventory area, 90 percent of region. Suitable for regular cultivation, 57 percent. Dominant soil limitation: erosion hazard, 63 percent; shallowness, stoniness, droughtiness, 24 percent. Land use: cropland, 27 percent; pasture, 26 percent; range, 24 percent. Conservation treatment needed: 64 percent of cropland; 77 percent of pasture; 81 percent of range.

K. Northern lake region

Level to gently rolling glacial drift, till, and lake plains; many swamps, lakes, and wet lowlands. Inventory area, 83 percent of region. Suitable for regular cultivation, 48 percent. Dominant soil limitation: wetness, 41 percent; erosion hazard, 31 percent; shallowness, stoniness, droughtiness, 27 percent. Land use: commercial forest, 65 percent; cropland, 19 percent. Conservation treatment needed: 52 percent of commercial forest; 54 percent of cropland.

L. Southern lake region

Nearly level to gently sloping glacial plains. Inventory area, 85 percent of region. Suitable for regular cultivation, 79 percent. Dominant soil limitation: wetness, 48 percent; erosion hazard, 34 percent. Land use: cropland, 63 percent; commercial forest, 22 percent. Conservation treatment needed: 58 percent of cropland; 65 percent of commercial forest.

M. North-central region

Nearly level to rolling plains; sharply dissected glacial till or drift plains. Inventory area, 95 percent of region. Suitable for regular cultivation, 78 percent. Dominant soil limitation: erosion hazard, 54 percent; wetness, 29 percent. Land use: cropland, 68 percent; pasture, 12 percent; commercial forest, 11 percent. Conservation treatment needed: 67 percent of cropland; 72 percent of pasture; 79 percent of commercial forest.

N. Appalachian-Ozark region

Mountains; valleys; dissected plateaus. Inventory area, 76 percent of region. Suitable for regular cultivation, 33 percent. Dominant soil limitation: erosion hazard, 58 percent; shallowness, stoniness, droughtiness, 31 percent. Land use: commercial forest, 59 percent; cropland, 19 percent; pasture, 16 percent. Conservation treatment needed: 74 percent of commercial forest; 66 percent of cropland; 71 percent of pasture.

O. Mississippi delta region

Flood plains; terraces. Inventory area, 68 percent of region. Suitable for regular cultivation, 79 percent. Dominant soil limitation: wetness, 79 percent; erosion hazard, 10 percent. Land use: cropland, 55 percent; commercial forest, 35 percent. Conservation treatment needed: 64 percent of cropland; 77 percent of commercial forest.

P. South Atlantic slope region

Coastal plains and Piedmont plateaus; some highly dissected areas. Inventory area, 100 percent of region. Suitable for regular cultivation, 54 percent. Dominant soil limitation: erosion hazard, 53 percent; wetness, 31 percent. Land use: commercial forest, 65 percent; cropland, 20 percent. Conservation treatment needed: 68 percent of commercial forest; 68 percent of cropland.

R. Northeastern region

Plateaus; plains; mountains. Inventory area, 87 percent of region. Suitable for regular cultivation, 33 percent. Dominant soil limitation: shallowness, stoniness, droughtiness, 55 percent; erosion hazard, 23 percent; excess water, 21 percent. Land use: commercial forest, 69 percent; cropland, 15 percent. Conservation treatment needed: 75 percent of commercial forest; 60 percent of cropland.

S. North Atlantic slope region

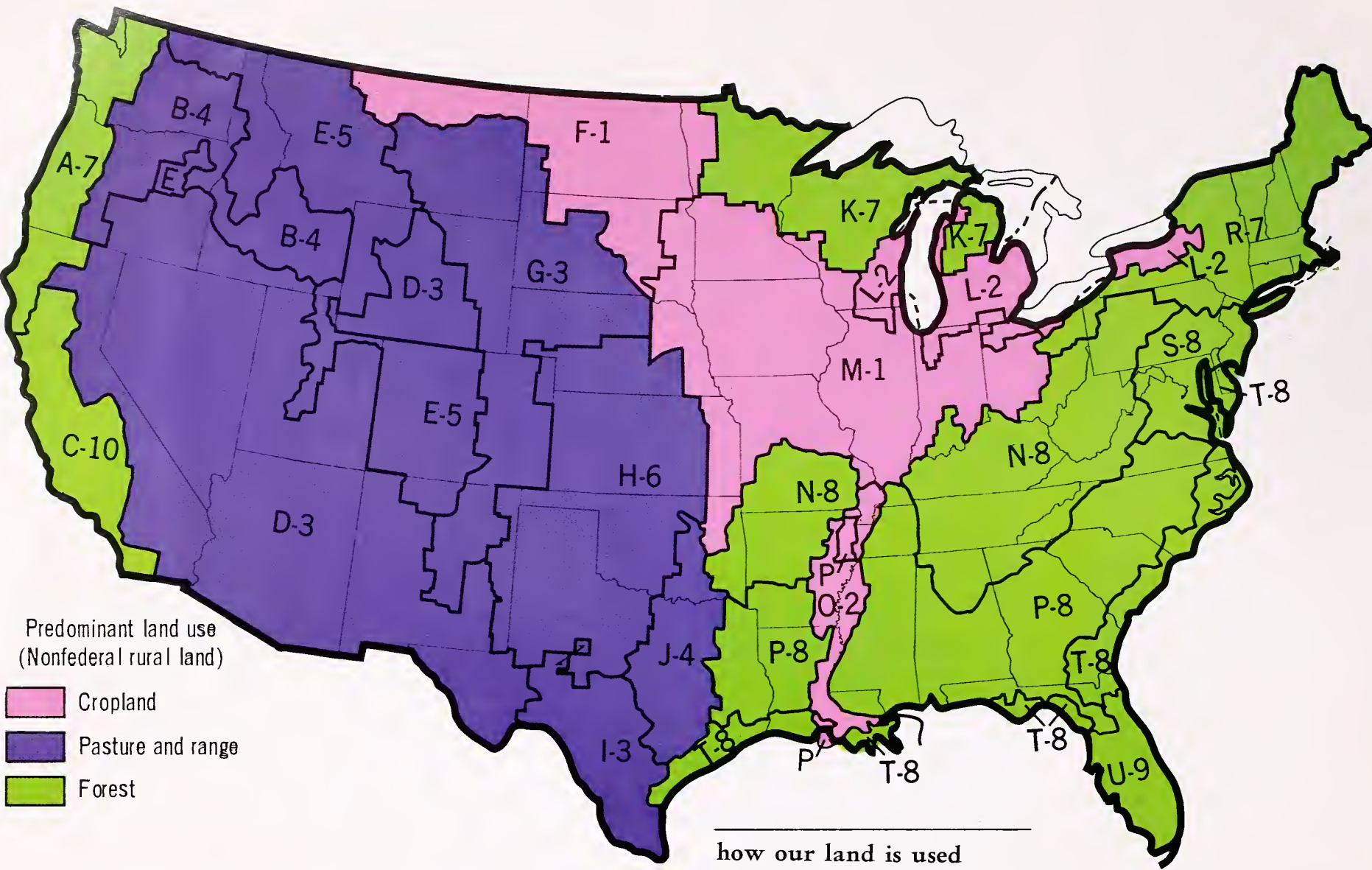
Undulating to rolling, dissected coastal plains; Piedmont plateaus; Appalachian ridges and valleys. Inventory area, 83 percent of region. Suitable for regular cultivation, 50 percent. Dominant soil limitation: erosion hazard, 56 percent; shallowness, stoniness, droughtiness, 24 percent; wetness, 17 percent. Land use: commercial forest, 54 percent; cropland, 28 percent. Conservation treatment needed: 64 percent of commercial forest; 64 percent of cropland.

T. Atlantic coast region

Nearly level lowlands. Inventory area, 83 percent of region. Suitable for regular cultivation, 57 percent. Dominant soil limitation: wetness, 75 percent; shallowness, stoniness, droughtiness, salinity, 17 percent. Land use: commercial forest, 52 percent; cropland, 22 percent. Conservation treatment needed: 76 percent of commercial forest; 72 percent of cropland.

U. Florida subtropical region

Nearly level to gently rolling coastal plain; many swamps and marshes. Inventory area, 82 percent of region. Suitable for regular cultivation, 30 percent. Dominant soil limitation: wetness, 87 percent; shallowness, stoniness, droughtiness, 11 percent; range, 11 percent. Conservation treatment needed: 81 percent of commercial forest; 63 percent of cropland.



The numbers that follow the region designation (A, B, C, etc.) can be interpreted as follows:

1. More than 67 percent cropland, 10-33 percent pasture and range. 2. 50-66 percent cropland, 10-33 percent forest. 3. More than 67 percent pasture and range, 10-33 percent cropland or forest. 4. 50-66 percent pasture and range, 10-33 percent cropland. 5. 50-66 percent pas-

ture and range, 10-33 percent forest. 6. Equal parts of pasture and range and of cropland. 7. More than 67 percent forest, 10-33 percent cropland. 8. 50-66 percent forest, 10-33 percent, cropland. 9. 50-66 percent forest, 10-33 percent pasture and range. 10. Equal parts forest, cropland, and pasture and range.

Locally controlled rural land is about equally divided among the three major productive uses: cropland, 30 percent; pasture and range, 34 percent; and forest, 32 percent.

Only about half the arable land in the country is used for cultivated crops. But, if an increase in food

production is needed, cropland acreage could be expanded without encroaching on other land uses. By concentrating farming on the land best suited for it and planning other uses in harmony with the natural features and capability of the land, we can have plenty of land for all our needs.



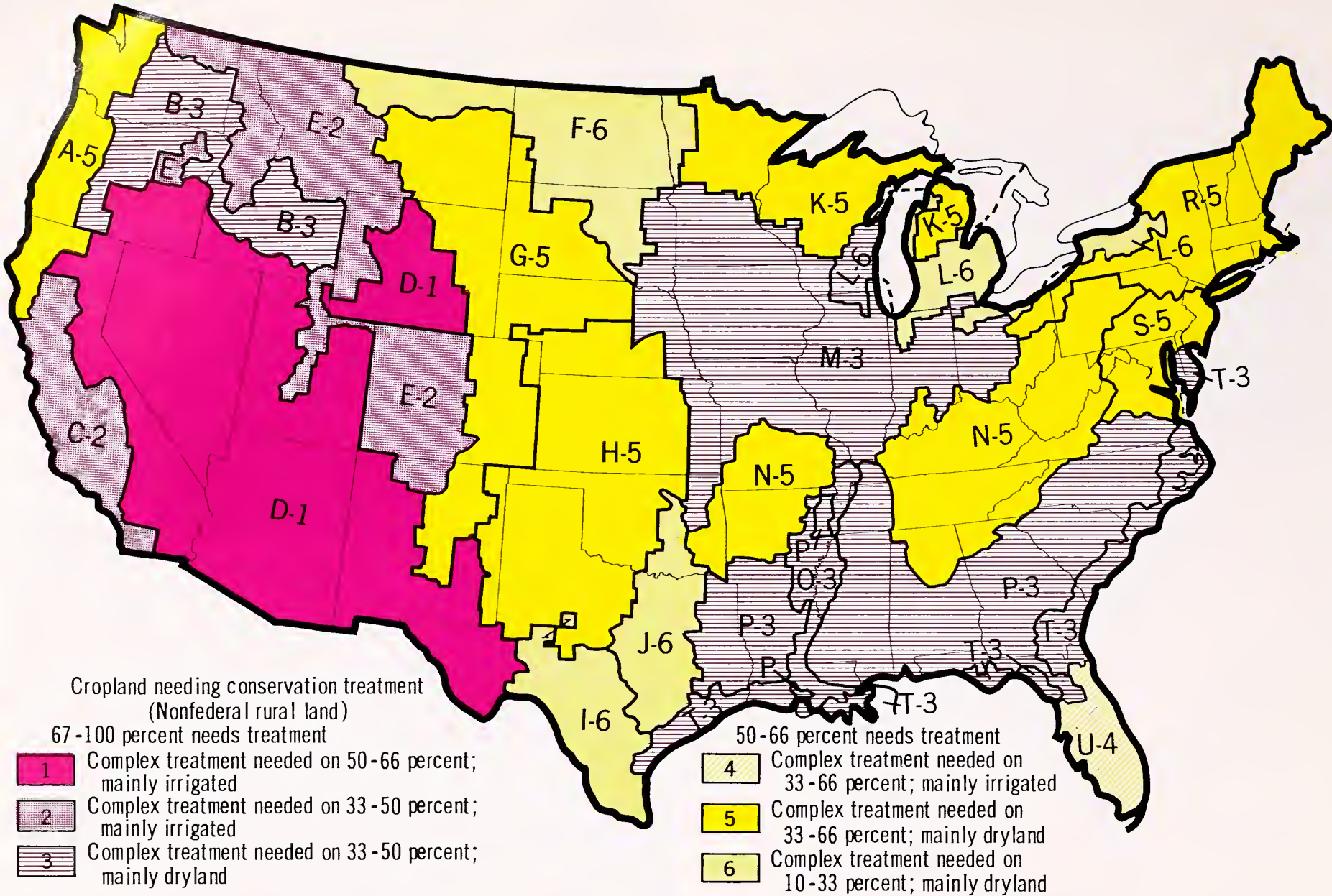
IDA-45,036, OKLA-11,897,
IDA-45,252, OH-30,705

Locally controlled rural land is about
equally divided among the three major
productive uses: cropland, pasture and
range, and forest.



**Predominant land use
(Nonfederal rural land)**

Cropland:	Acres
Row crops	160,355,000
Close-grown crops and fallow	132,626,000
Forage crops	77,646,000
Conservation use	39,026,000
Temporarily idle	11,239,000
Orchards, vineyards, and bush fruits	5,079,000
Open land formerly cropped	11,612,000
	<hr/>
	437,583,000
Pasture and range:	
Pastureland	101,739,000
Rangeland	380,137,000
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	481,876,000
Forest land:	
Commercial	398,234,000
Noncommercial	64,086,000
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	462,320,000
Other land:	
In farms	27,850,000
Not in farms	28,367,000
	<hr/>
	56,217,000



conservation needs

Although we have abundant soil resources for foreseeable future needs, three-fifths of locally controlled land is not being cared for in a way that protects the soil resource for sustained production.

Sediment and other pollutants

coming from improperly treated land foul streams and lakes, destroying recreation and esthetic values. Inadequate treatment on cropland, grazing land, and forest land results in using more land than necessary to produce needed food and fiber.

Judged against current standards, 64 percent of cropland needs additional conservation treatment. Similarly, 67 percent of pasture and rangeland, 62 percent of forest land, and 28 percent of other land is inadequately treated.

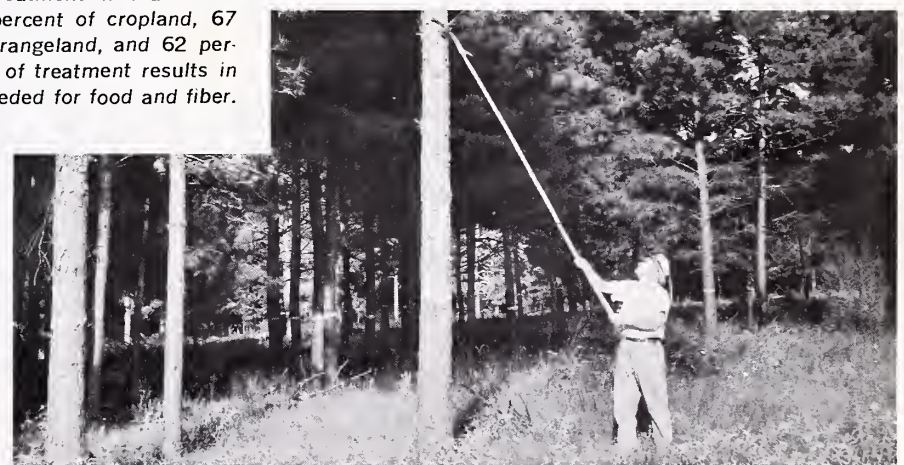


Above left . . . sediment coming from improperly treated land is filling lakes and streams.



VA-W-168
MO-1,959, OKLA-10,983
ARK-62,191

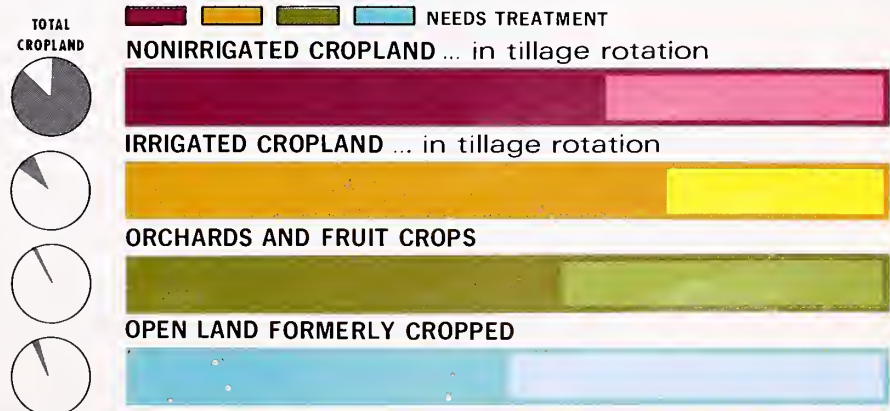
Additional conservation treatment like that shown here is needed on 64 percent of cropland, 67 percent of pasture and rangeland, and 62 percent of forest land; lack of treatment results in using more land than needed for food and fiber.

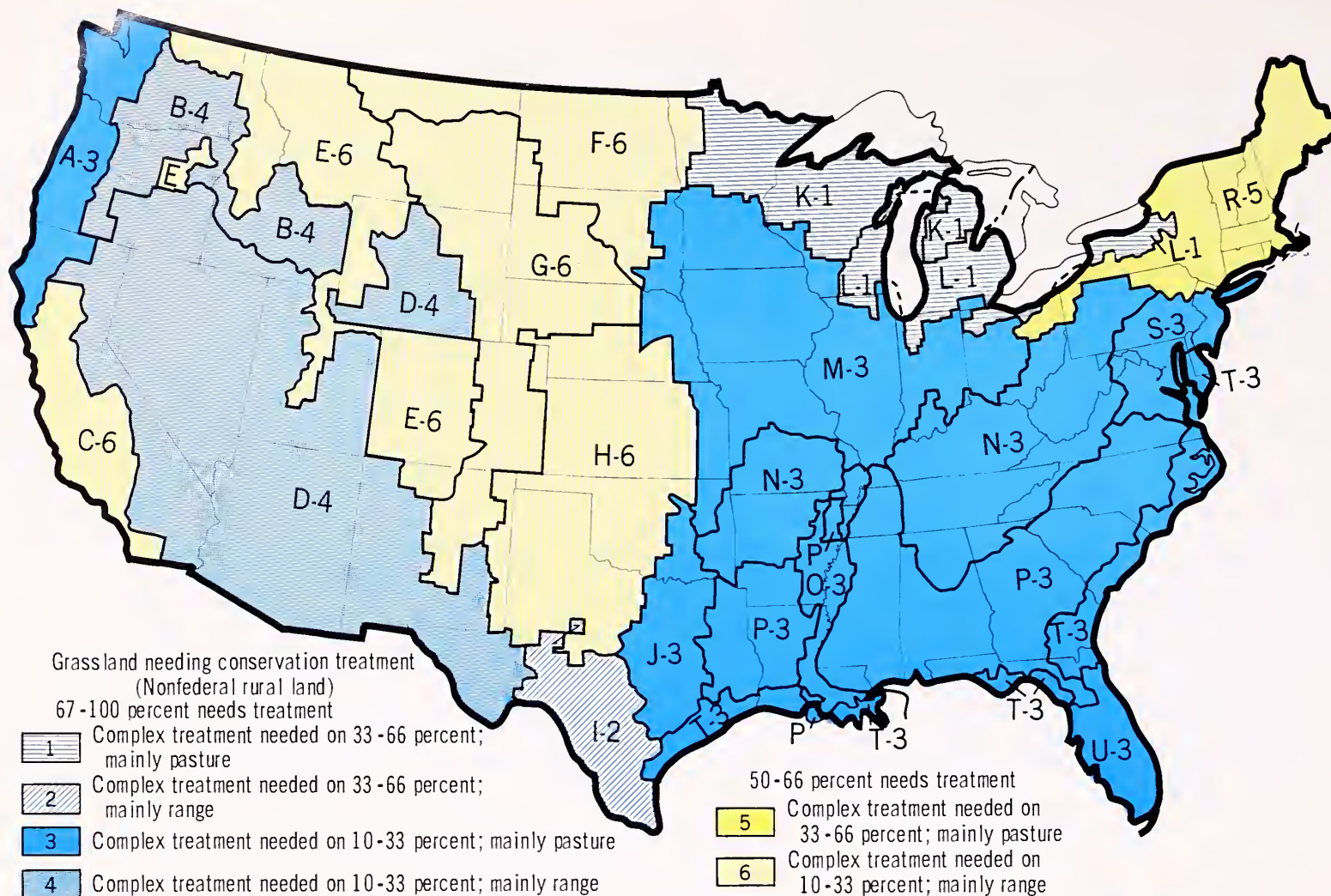


Kinds of treatment needed on cropland

	Acres	Percent
Nonirrigated cropland in tillage rotation	379,395,000	100
Complex treatment:		
Stripcropping, terraces, diversions	82,508,000	22
Permanent cover	15,850,000	4
Drainage	43,005,000	11
	141,363,000	37
Simple treatment:		
Residue and annual cover	60,595,000	16
Sod in rotation	22,119,000	6
Contouring only	16,049,000	4
	98,763,000	26
Irrigated cropland in tillage rotation	41,497,000	100
Complex treatment:		
Improved irrigation systems	16,417,000	40
Water management	8,183,000	20
	24,600,000	60
Simple treatment:		
Cultural and management practices	4,782,000	11

CROPLAND NEEDING CONSERVATION TREATMENT





Kinds of treatment needed on pasture and range

	Pasture		Range		Pasture and range	
	Acres	Pct.	Acres	Pct.	Acres	Pct.
Complex treatment:						
Reestablishment...	23,134,000	23	36,395,000	10	59,529,000	12
Change in land use	2,237,000	2	65,000	—	2,302,000	1
	25,371,000	25	36,460,000	10	61,831,000	13
Simple treatment:						
Protection only...	13,490,000	13	123,334,000	32	136,824,000	28
Improvement practices	33,380,000	33	91,483,000	24	124,863,000	26
	46,870,000	46	214,817,000	56	261,687,000	54
Total needing treatment	72,241,000	71	251,277,000	66	323,518,000	67
Total acreage	101,739,000	100	380,137,000	100	481,876,000	100

in a changing world

The updating of the Conservation Needs Inventory has given us for the first time a measure of the adequacy of our conservation efforts on the privately owned and locally controlled land of our country.

An increasing population, an expanding economy, a changing technology, and the shifting aspirations of people are placing increasing stress on our land resources.

Each time a tract of land is

GRASSLAND NEEDING CONSERVATION TREATMENT



changed from one use to another—as from farmland to a suburban housing development or from cropland to grazing or forest land—a new set of conservation practices must be applied. New knowledge and higher standards often call for additional measures on land once considered adequately treated.

In a changing America conservation is a continuing effort; it cannot be completed and put behind us.

watershed project needs

Some of the most crucial soil and water conservation problems cannot be dealt with by individual land owners. Such problems require cooperative action and public assistance for solution.

Rural and urban residents in hundreds of communities have learned that through watershed projects, by working together and with local, state, and federal help, they can solve their land use and water problems, such as

flooding, sediment damage, and water shortage. Multipurpose watershed projects can improve not only the total land and water resource system but the environment as well. They stimulate local economy and community development and provide excellent opportunities for water-based recreation.

The Conservation Needs Inventory delineated 19,195 small watersheds of a size suitable for such projects and found that most of them have soil and water problems. Under present criteria, project development under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law 566) is estimated to be feasible on about 8,900 of these watersheds.

To date, more than 2,900 applications for project assistance have been received; more than 1,600 projects have been approved for planning and 1,030 for operations. Only about 300 projects have been completed—a bare beginning toward the need indicated by the Inventory.

EXTENT OF PROBLEMS IN WATERSHEDS FOR WHICH PROJECT DEVELOPMENT IS FEASIBLE

FLOODWATER AND SEDIMENT DAMAGE



EROSION DAMAGE

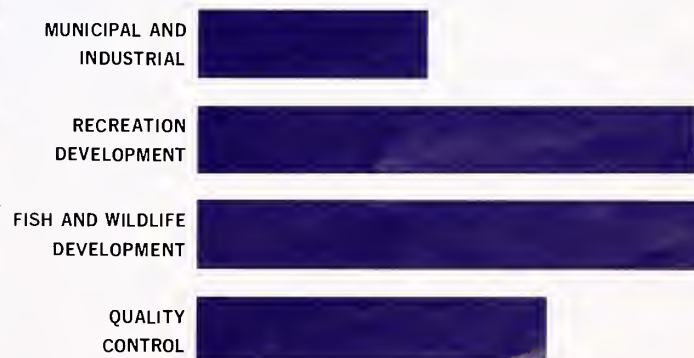


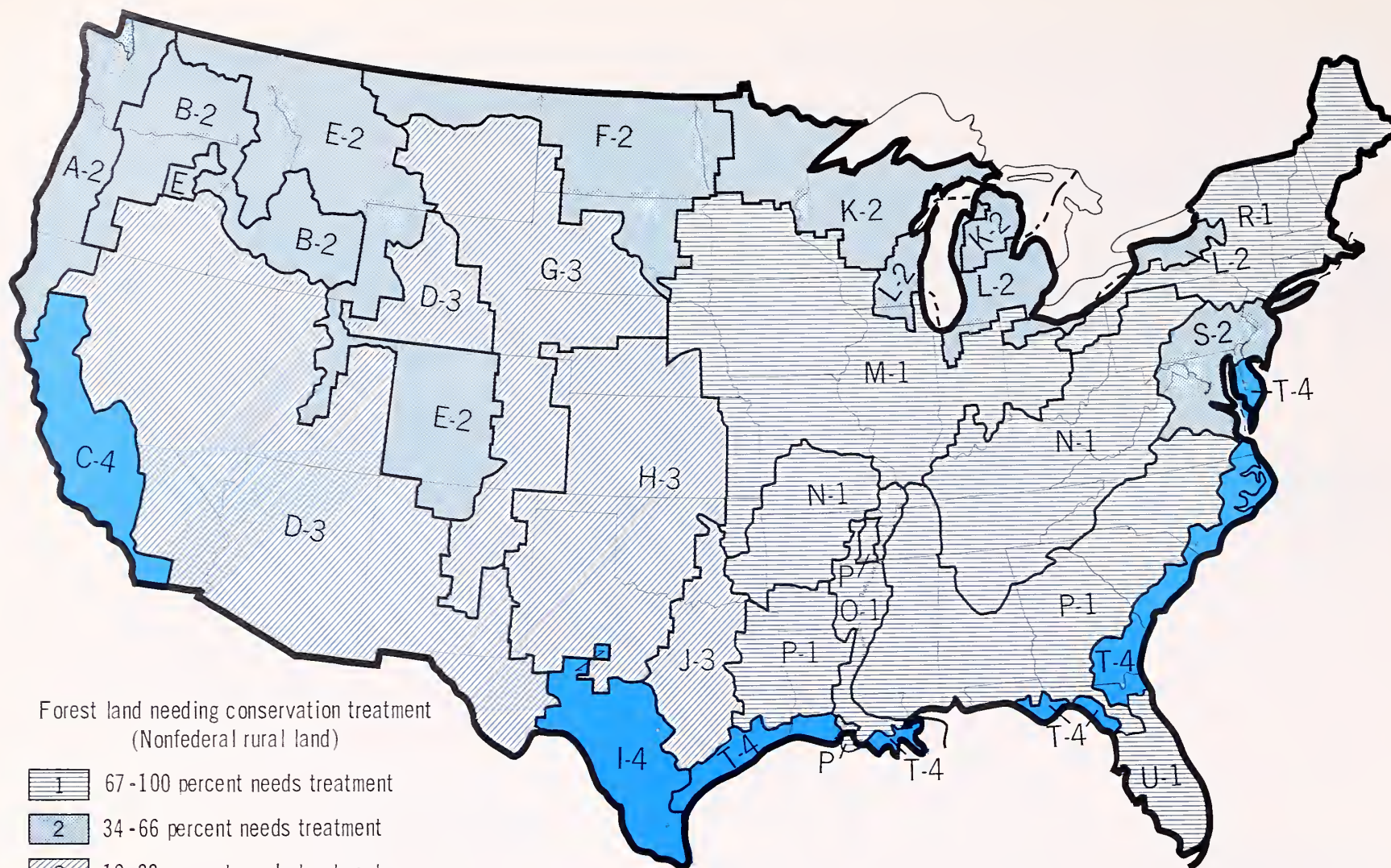
AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT



MOST WATERSHEDS HAVE ONE OR MORE OF THESE PROBLEMS.

NONAGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT

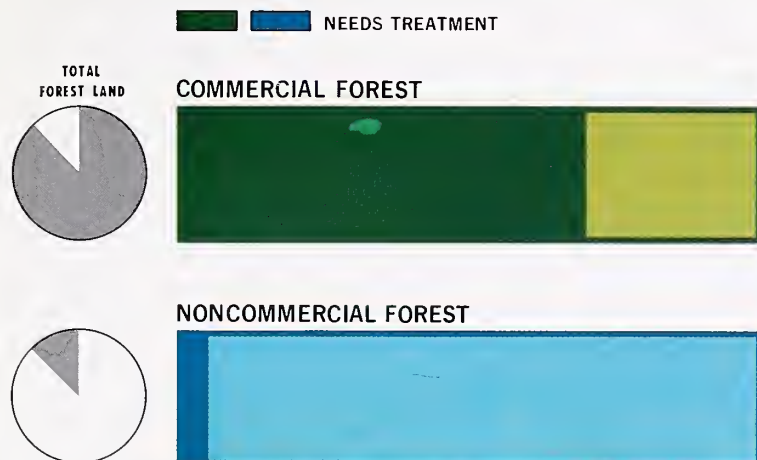




Kinds of treatment needed on forest land

	Commercial		Noncommercial		Total	
	Acres	Pct.	Acres	Pct.	Acres	Pct.
Complex treatment:						
Establishment or reinforcement of stand	103,581,000	26	2,253,000	4	105,834,000	23
Simple treatment:						
Timber stand improvement	178,589,000	45	—	—	178,589,000	39
Total needing treatment	282,170,000	71	2,253,000	4	284,423,000	62
Total acreage	398,234,000	100	64,086,000	100	462,320,000	100

FOREST LAND NEEDING CONSERVATION TREATMENT



land use planning_____

Citizens, business interests, and public officials can join in defining common goals for private and public land use, community facilities and services, and economic development within a county, a metropolitan area, or other practical local planning unit.

Such local plans yield greater returns if they are correlated with the goals of neighboring or surrounding areas, such as adjoining counties, a small river basin, or other subdivision of a state. Several programs for which assistance is available from government agencies provide formal opportunities for such integrated resource planning.

States have a planning agency and clearinghouse to coordinate land use and resource plans on a statewide basis.

Land use planning at any level—local, multicounty, or statewide—must begin with a realistic inventory of natural resources to be matched against the needs and goals of the people. With data on kinds and amount of land and water resources, on their suitability for different uses, and on their spatial relationships, it is possible to meet human and economic needs and at the same time maintain or improve the quality of the environment.

Conservation Needs Inventory data and other data about soil, water, and plants provide basic information for

such planning at all levels. Specific compilations, maps, and interpretations can be provided for any combination of counties or land resource areas to fit the scope of the planning. In many places, results of watershed project studies and river basin surveys can provide additional information on land and water resources and development potentials.

fitting into the environment_____

As the nation's population increases, demands on our land and water resources press ever harder against the limits of the natural environment.

People from different walks of life seek different goods and services from the same valley or mountain slope, from the same river or stream. The builder vies with the farmer for the same level field; the fisherman with the water skier for the same lake.

In many places, two or more competing uses can be accommodated to advantage on the same land or water area. In others, they are best segregated—each use assigned to a compatible area.

Planning with nature—fitting each human use into the natural pattern of the landscape—is a growing imperative for preserving the human environment. Factual information about the land is a prerequisite for civilized living in harmony with nature.

How to get information...

For a county, conservation district, local trade territory, watershed, or other local area—

Request from the local or county office of the Soil Conservation Service or from your conservation district office:

1. Summary of Conservation Needs Inventory data for your county.
2. County publications based on Inventory data or special interpretations of the data.
3. Soil survey of your county if available.
4. Other soil, water, and plant information.

For a multicounty area, a state, a group of states, a multistate region or the mainland United States; for a river basin, a resource conservation and development project area, a planning district, a regional development authority,

or a metropolitan, regional, or national trade territory—

Request from your state SCS office (this can be done through the local SCS office):

1. Summary of Conservation Needs Inventory data for your state or any number of states. (Contains data for each county and state totals.)
2. State publications based on Inventory data and interpretative reports.
3. Published soil surveys of counties in any state.

Also, your state conservationist can help you get computer printouts of Inventory data or special tabulations of the data for a land resource region or area.

